



# The Beacon

Volume 8 No. 12

DECEMBER 2019

★  
 For  
 unto  
 you is  
 born this  
 day in the  
 city of David  
 a saviour, which  
 is Christ the Lord.  
 Luke  
 2:11

## *Our prayers have been answered ...*

**Audio/visual equipment has been installed  
 Kitchen remodel begins in January**

EUMC has much to be thankful for and we are excited about the possibilities for our church in the new year: enhanced worship services – opening fellowship hall for community usage and "The Coffee Connection."

Over the years, this congregation has demonstrated deep commitment to the ministries at Empire United Methodist Church – to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in the Empire area.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the donors who contributed *designated funds\** for these two special projects: the kitchen remodel and the audio/visual equipment for the sanctuary and fellowship hall. We celebrate these wonderful

projects and the funding behind them. (\*Note: designated funds cannot be used for general operating expenses per The UM Book of Discipline.)

While we feel blessed, we need your help! Through our tithes and offerings, we support the general operating fund for ministries and day-to-day operations of EUMC. With your assistance and prayers, we can pursue our new ministries and "keep the doors open and the lights on" in 2020. Let us pray this prayer!

*O Lord, sometimes life seems so overwhelming - but we are assured by Your Word that you will never leave us. May you continue to push us forward and to not let us fall back into what may be our "comfort zone," but to always follow you wherever you lead us. May we have a renewed excitement to do new and different ways of ministry in order to reach our community right where they are. Help us to be open to sharing our "stories" of Your love in our lives. Give us the courage to reach out. In Your holy name we pray. Amen*

Thank you, good and faithful servants. God Bless,  
 The Administrative Council



<p><b>December 1</b>          1st Sunday of Advent          10:00 AM Worship          The Cast of Christmas          Sermon Series:          "The Prophets"</p>	<p><b>December 8</b>          2nd Sunday of Advent          10:00 AM Worship          The Cast of Christmas          Sermon Series:          "The Angels"</p>	<p><b>December 15</b>          3rd Sunday of Advent          10:00 AM Worship          The Cast of Christmas          Sermon Series:          "The Shepherds"</p>	<p><b>December 22</b>          4th Sunday of Advent          10:00 AM Worship          The Cast of Christmas          Sermon Series:          "The Magi"</p>	<p><b>December 24</b>          Christmas Eve          Candlelight Service  <b>7:00 PM</b> Worship          The Cast of Christmas          Sermon Series:          "The Nativity"</p>
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The Mission Team has created a "Mission of the Month" loud offering to provide more opportunities to contribute to a designated mission project.

At all worship services, a collection "pail" will be on the altar rail and another at the back of the sanctuary (on small table) to receive your donations. Thank You!

**For December - Pastor's Discretionary Fund**

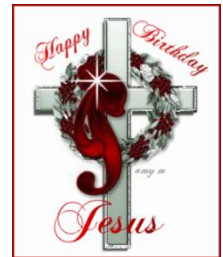
The discretionary fund assists those in need who contact our church for financial help with travel, lodging, utilities, medical prescriptions, groceries, or other real-life needs. Its purpose is to provide ministry and care to those with critical life necessities in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Funds collected will be dedicated on the last Sunday of the month.**



**December 3 – 11:30 AM Annual Christmas Luncheon.**

This year's theme is: **"It's Jesus' Birthday."** A tasty lunch of soup, salad, rolls, dessert, punch and coffee will be served. Ladies: Come, join in the fun! Reservations please, there is limited seating (326-5510).



**In the UMW Library**

**"Life on the Outside: The Prison Odyssey of Elaine Bartlett"** By Jennifer Gonnerman

Elaine Bartlett was sent to Bedford Hills prison for selling cocaine, her first offense under the New York Rockefeller drug laws. As the story begins Elaine is a free woman with four children who has no money, no job and no real home. She lives with her children and extended family in a substandard housing project on the lower east side of New York City. For her first offense, she is sentenced to 20 years to life for selling cocaine. Her payout for committing this crime was to be \$2,500. Upon her release she states, "I left one prison to come home to another." Elaine is determined to stay out of prison. She faces the challenge of living with her four grown children, finding a job, visits her son and husband in prison, follows the rules of her parole, and campaigns to repeal the laws that lead to her long prison term. Elaine Bartlett is a survivor.

*Book review by Kay Coombs*

**Next Meeting: January 14, 2020 at 11:00 AM.**

The purpose of the United Methodist Women "shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the Global ministries of the church."

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**  
**Saturday, Dec. 14 - 8:30 AM**  
*2nd Saturday - of each month*  
**Fellowship Hall**  
*All are Welcome!*



## *The Micki Barr Memorial Giving Tree*



“Gift cards” for the Micki Barr Memorial Giving Tree will be collected again this year. Mittens designated “gift card” will be hung on the tree. Please take a mitten (or as many as you wish), attach it to the purchased a card and place your donation in the container, labeled “The Micki Barr Memorial Giving Tree” in Fellowship Hall. The cards will be distributed to local families by the Missions Team. ***Please place all donations in the container labeled “The Micki Barr Memorial Giving Tree” by December 20.***”

*Thank you, The Missions Commission*

## VISIONING MEETING NOTES – NOV 12

### **New Vision Statement:**

A community who goes out, serving in love, sharing Christ: **“Go, Serve. Share Christ.”**

- **Current Mission Statement:** To live out a faith in Jesus Christ through our efforts to hear others, share in God’s truths, join in worship and celebrate in the joy of God’s grace. We will address this mission statement in January.
- **Prayer Chain** – Sue Palmer will be the winter contact for the prayer chain as Laurie Taghon is now in FL.
- **Website** needs to be updated; make it more user-friendly. Jim Sorbie will address this.
- **No meeting** in December.
- **The Coffee Connection** – our new coffee shop – plan to be up and running by Dec. 9. To be open: Mondays, Wednesday & Thursday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Volunteers will be needed to staff. The whole purpose of The Coffee Connection is for the community to get to know us and we to know the community. Area residents and visitors can gather to chat, use free Wi-Fi (donated laptop will be available), be able to watch programming on large screen TV, check local happenings in the neighborhood, play cards, etc. Sandy will work on creating ads, posters and send news releases to local media.
- **Finances:** Reminder to the congregation that all work that is being done is a result of **designated donations to specific projects: the kitchen remodel and the Audio-Visual projects in the sanctuary and fellowship hall.** ***Donations designated for specific projects cannot be used for general church operating expenses.*** We still need to know from the congregation (those who have not returned a commitment card) how much will be contributed in 2020 in order to create a budget for pastor’s salary, day-to-day operations (lights, fuel, supplies, salaries for custodian, secretary, music director, maintenance, snow plowing, etc.). **Suggestion:** publish reminder in The Beacon, announcement in worship, announcement in the bulletin.



## **Thanks to all Sunday Worship Readers Are you ready to serve?**

If you’d like to take an active part in the church service reading scriptures during 2020, please sign-up (form is on table in Fellowship Hall).



# ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 24, 2019

Present: Pastor Melody & Denny Olin, Roger & Beth Noonan, Aggie Wilson, Bill & Jan Lyon, Roger & Carol Merillat, Roy Pentilla, Kay Wilcox, Jerry & Shirley Solem, Kay Coombs, Jim & Gerri Sorbie, Rod Mead, Sue Palmer, Tim Egeler, Sandy Mallory

Sandy Mallory, chair, called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

Jan Lyon, lay leader, opened the meeting with a prayer.

Beth Noonan read the minutes of the October meeting and notes from 11.19.19 visioning meeting; both were accepted as read. Motion by Aggie Wilson, second by Jan Lyon.

## Old Business:

- Jan Lyon talked about the Church Protection Policy and said the Ad Council will pay for any training needed. Will bring back to the next meeting for final approval.
- Denny Olin gave an update on the sound system. The wiring is finished, and the 4 TVs will be hung up today. We received a District grant for \$3,500 to complete this project. Hope to have the system up and running as soon as possible.

## New Business:

- We need to update our worship service/event cancel policy.
- News releases will be sent out to announce, "The Coffee Connection." Bill Lyon will be distributing posters for this also.

## Committee Reports:

Pastor Melody said that she and Christine attended a meeting yesterday on the EZRA on-line program for church statistics. They learned how to update the "Dashboard" and will be working on that on Monday. Pastor is also working on Advent and Christmas projects. Next Sunday will be "Hanging of the Greens," decorating of the sanctuary.

**Pastor/Parish:** Roger said that a job evaluation of Christine was done. We are very satisfied with her job performance.

**Worship:** Kay Coombs suggested that we discontinue the Summer Speaker Series as it is too costly. She suggested that we might have several speakers throughout the year. A motion was made by Jan Lyon to discontinue the speaker series and it was seconded by Gerri Sorbie. Motion passed. Kay shared concerns about changes in the worship services, received from several members.

**Financial:** Roy Pentilla gave the financial report. He is cautiously optimistic that we may break even by the end of the year. Jan Lyon asked if there was any movement on Equitable Compensation and Roy said that \$4000 has been received.

**Trustees:** Roger Merillat said that the kitchen remodel plans are underway. The first phase will be to replace the entire island. New cabinetry will be installed along with a solid surface countertop, new sinks, faucets etc. to be health department compliant. Phase two will be to paint the kitchen and cabinets. No plans are being made to replace the flooring at this time. Dishwashers do not meet code and new sanitizers cost between \$6500 and \$7000. Jim Sorbie has concerns on how to explain to people how we can afford this kitchen remodel and the new TVs when we have budget struggles. ***These two projects were possible through designated funding (for specific projects); "designated funds" cannot be used for general operating expenses according to the UM Book of Discipline.***

**Hospitality:** Jan Lyon would like volunteers for hosts for the Sundays in December. Sandy Mallory, Kay Coombs and Sue Palmer all volunteered. Jan would like to begin serving coffee in the narthex/lobby on Sunday.

**Missions:** Rod Mead reported that the mitten tree is in the narthex. Gift cards collected from the mitten tree will go to local families. There will be no shoe boxes this year.

**UMW:** United Methodist Women will hold their annual women's luncheon on December 3 at 11:30. Local church women are invited. Men are asked to volunteer to help serve the luncheon. Call Christine to RSVP.

Motion by Roger Noonan second by Kay Coombs to adjourn at 12:20.

There will be no December meeting

**Next meeting will be January 27, 2020**

Beth Noonan, recording secretary

## COFFEE SHOP OPENS DEC 9



Nothing like a hot cup of coffee on a cold wintry day as we watch the snowflakes fall!

*Stop in!* at “**The Coffee Connection**,” where Leelanau Roasting Co. coffee is served **free**, and area folks can gather to chat, use **free Wi-Fi**, *view programming on large screen TV, check local happenings in the neighborhood, play cards, and make new acquaintances.*

“**The Coffee Connection**” opens to the public on Monday, Dec. 9 at 10500 Michigan Street [Empire United Methodist Church] and operates weekdays: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. *Let’s get connected!*

## Be an angel this Christmas – invite someone to church ...



“It is Christmas time, and there are many people who typically don’t go to church but are searching nonetheless for the “good news of great joy for all the people.” They’ve been searching at the mall, at their Christmas parties, even sitting in front of a decorated Christmas tree, but they still haven’t found Christmas. And they won’t find it, unless someone plays the part of the angel and invites them to come and see the child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

*From Adam Hamilton’s The Journey –  
Walking the Road to Bethlehem.*



**The Advent wreath**, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. In some churches, four purple candles, one for each week in Advent, are used with one larger white candle in the middle as the Christ candle. Other churches prefer three purple or blue candles with one candle being rose or pink, to represent joy.

The lighting of the first candle symbolizes expectation, the second symbolizes hope, the third joy and the fourth purity. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.

Ornaments made from Christian symbols (or Chrismons, a contraction for 'Christ monograms') were first developed by Frances Spencer and the women of the [Ascension Lutheran Church](#) in Danville, VA. Many churches display a **Chrismon tree** during the Advent and Christmas season decorated with handmade ornaments. Our Christmas trees hold Chrismons made by Leah Edsall and her group of friends many years ago.

Many churches hold a service of preparation for Christ's coming, which includes hanging greenery traditionally associated with everlasting life. Greens such as cedar for royalty, fir and pine boughs for everlasting life, holly symbolizing Jesus' death and ivy representing the resurrection are used.



# MONTHLY CALENDAR



**1<sup>ST</sup> Sunday of every month:**

**Holy Communion served** – *“Take communion as often as you can. It’s food for the journey.” All are welcome.*

- **Leelanau Area Food Pantry Collection**

*Donations of canned goods and packaged food are collected for the Leelanau Area Food Pantry. The pantry is always in need of volunteers. Please contact Elaine Pentilla for more information.*

- **Men’s Breakfast** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM
- **United Methodist Women meet** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 11:00 AM
- **ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL** – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after worship - *Your participation and service is appreciated!*

**Mission of the Month** – donations are collected every Sunday - for a wide variety of ministries and the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund (for local families in need). Just look for the “pails.”

***Our Vision Statement:***  
 A community who goes out, serving in love, sharing Christ  
 “Go, Serve. Share Christ.”

## Worship Servers

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COUNTERS</u>	<u>HOSTS</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>USHERS</u>
12.01	B Lyon S Mallory	Jan Lyon	J Petersen	T Egeler D Giddis
12.08	J Lyon B Noonan	S Mallory	M Goodrick	J Lyon J Dorsey
12.15	T Petersen G Sorbie	S Palmer	J Lyon	P Mallory D Davis
12.22	K Coombs R Merillat		K Coombs	T Egeler D Giddis
12.27	K Wilcox R Meade			



### “THE COFFEE CONNECTION” COFFEE SHOP

**MONDAY – WEDNESDAY – THURSDAY**  
**9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM**  
*“A Community Gathering Place”*

**FREE** Leelanau Roasting Co. Coffee & Wi-Fi

**OPENS - MONDAY, DEC. 9**  
**EMPIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**10500 MICHIGAN ST – EMPIRE**

## Serving as the Hands & Feet of Christ 135 Years in Empire 1884 - 2019

*The Beacon* is published monthly by The EMPIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Our mailing address is: PO Box 261 - 10050 Michigan Street, Empire, MI 49630. We can be reached at 231.326.5510 or [www.empireumc@centurytel.net](mailto:www.empireumc@centurytel.net). Information and items for publication must be received at the church office by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.



## ***EUMC Mission Statement***

*"To live out a faith in Jesus Christ through our efforts to hear others, share in God's truths, join in worship, and celebrate in the Joy of God's grace."*

### **SUNDAYS**

10:00 AM Worship Service  
8:00 PM AA Group

### **MONDAYS**

9:00-1:00 Church Office open  
"The Coffee Connection" opens Dec. 9  
10:00 AM Worship Team

### **WEDNESDAYS**

9:00-1:00 Church Office open  
"The Coffee Connection"  
8:00 PM NA Group

### **THURSDAYS**

9:00-1:00 Church Office open  
"The Coffee Connection"  
10:00 AM Worship Team  
2:30 PM Bible Study - Rev. Tom Petersen



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